

Good Afternoon

,

On behalf of the Naugatuck Early Childhood Collaborative, I am requesting your support to help reinstate funds to "The community plans for Early Childhood" H.B. No. 6824. As you are aware the governor's budget eliminates Local Community Plans. Without the work of our council, Naugatuck children and families would be without many resources and services to help these amazing children become Healthy, Safe and Successful Learners, the three domains we strive to achieve for every child.

With your support of the reinstatement for the line item in the OEC budget for Local Community Plans, this will enable the continuation of the work our collaborative has provided over the past 10 years. Although this is a relatively small amount of state money, it is matched dollar for dollar by the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund to the sum of \$750,000.00 annually.

At the local level, Naugatuck has leveraged \$ 922,600.00 for the school year 2015-2016 to increase School Readiness slots to 4 year old students below 200% poverty in three of our private preschools; Naugatuck DayCare, Naugatuck YMCA and Salem Community Childcare Center starting in September 2015. Our council worked diligently to secure private grant funds in the amount of \$80,745.00 this school year to support our school children with wrap around services such as; before school physical activity at 7 of our schools by certified PE teachers, after school Healthy Cooking and Nutrition classes at two schools, Summer lunches that have increased to 9 sites and went from 8,350 meals served in 2013 to 13,564 meals in 2014. Free PE classes 5 days a week at two summer sites for 8 weeks for any child 18 and under and partnering with our Board of Education on strategies to make a smooth transition for our preschool children to kindergarten. In addition, our council has completed the following in the last six months for our town.(see attached)

Without our local Early Childhood Councils, we would not be in the position to secure these funds for our children. I would be happy to talk to you, and would appreciate your support in this much needed reinstatement.

Sincerely,

Jill Mahoney

Executive Director

Naugatuck Early Childhood Collaborative

203-729-1564

Naugatuckdiscovery@yahoo.com

Naugatuck Partnership for Children

Formally Known as Naugatuck Discovery

Option 1 Interim Report

Date: February 15, 2015

Community: Naugatuck

Submitted by: Jill Mahoney

Reporting period: July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014

Grant number: 2863.05

1) What progress has been made toward implementing selected community plan strategies?

Strategy 1: (Healthy Children)- Ensure Naugatuck children receive quality comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral services to promote healthy development.

- *Expand outreach to families and young women on HUSKY and other insurance options-* Naugatuck public schools sends flyers and information home on HUSKY and other insurance options with the beginning of year packets to all students attending school pre k-12. Partnerships have been formed with Stay Well Health through the Naugatuck Social Service Network that meets bi- monthly and also promotes through the Howard Whittemore Memorial Library in a dedicated information section of the library accessible by all.

Strategy 2: (Healthy Children)- Increase opportunities for physical activity and healthy nutrition for children and families.

- *Expand Breakfast Club to all five elementary schools-* Breakfast club is the opportunity for children in grades 2-6 to be engaged in a physical activity class that meets 2 times a week for 45 minutes a day before school. The Breakfast Club is administered through private grant funds and facilitated by PE staff in the public schools. All five elementary schools are engaged in this effort that ends with each student eating a healthy breakfast in the school prior to the start of class.
- *Determine possibility of Brass City Harvest expansion of its farmers market program; expand access to market vouchers (SNAP, WIC)-* Naugatuck Partnership for Children entered in a proposal in September 2014 to offer Healthy Cooking and Nutrition education to students in 2nd-6th grade at Andrew Avenue elementary school and Hillside Intermediate School. Through private grant funding, nutrition and healthy cooking classes are offered to 20 children per session, 2 times a week in 6 week increments for a total of 100 students. Students learn about nutrition and experience hands on cooking classes. Each session ends with the Brass City Mobile Food Markets that comes to the school where each student is given a voucher to spend at the market to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables to bring home to their families.
- *Continue promotion and expansion of the annual Town Wide walk Day in Naugatuck-* The 3rd annual Naugatuck Town Wide Walk day is slated for April 25, 2015 at Linden Park. With the

steady increase of walkers from 150 in 2013 to 350 in 2014, we anticipate this event another huge success. We are partnering with the Naugatuck YMCA to piggyback with their Healthy Kids day the same day as the walk making a family packed fun day for families.

- *Partner with ION Bank, YMCA and the Naugatuck Education Foundation to create a walking club for families-* Although we are in the beginning stages in talks about a family walking club, we have joined forces with Naugatuck Youth Services and the Naugatuck YMCA to incorporate Naugatuck to be an official site for Girls on the Run. This program is for girls in grades 3-5 to have the opportunity to be mentored and coached on running and self-esteem. The program runs March 2015-May2015
- *Develop student wellness fair at one elementary school based on pilot-* In the spring of 2014; Andrew Avenue Elementary school hosted a pilot of the student wellness fair that brought activities and information based on healthy eating and wellness to 4th grade students at the school. This year, Salem elementary school will host the student wellness fair at their location on April 7, 2015.
- *Expand the summer lunch program to one more site-* Naugatuck expanded our summer lunch sites from 8 locations in 2013 serving 8,350 meals in a eight week period to 9 locations in 2014 serving 13,529 meals from July 1, 2014-August 22, 2014. Naugatuck Partnership for Children also supplied a physical education teacher at two sites for 8 weeks. This program called Summer Lunch Bunch was available to all children that received lunch at both Salem School and Andrew Avenue School from 11:00-12:30 daily rain or shine free of charge.

Strategy 1: (Safe Children)- Expand and improve parenting support services to families.

- *Expand parent training or other curriculum in Naugatuck-* Parent Leadership and Child Leadership Training was established in Naugatuck in January 2015 with private funding. The PLTI/ CLTI classes meet every Wednesday from 5-8:30 for 20 weeks to learn and implement training received through the PLTI/ CLTI curriculum. Parent leaders will give back to our community through community service projects. Child leaders will give back to our community through several small community service projects. Both a local and state graduation is slated for June 2015.

Strategy 2: - Improve the local systems of care for families.

- *Expand the accessibility of current food pantry to local families-* The Connecticut Mobile Food Truck is slated to be adding Naugatuck to its list no later than August 2015. The committee chair has been working with the manager to get us on the schedule.
- *Establish a Basic Needs Closet-* We are experiencing barriers with insurance and privacy (HIPPA). It has been established that we will use the Naugatuck School System to incorporate a "Caring Community" collection system; we are just waiting to find a location that meets the needs of the community and restrictions set forth with insurance and HIPPA.

Strategy 3:- Increase wrap around services for families with school aged children.

- *Partner with the YMCA to develop before- and -after school programs at 2 elementary schools that are low or no cost-* The Naugatuck YMCA youth director Sheri Beck is licensing before and after school site at Western Elementary school in January 2015 and will work on trying to secure another location at Andrew Avenue in September 2015.

Strategy 1: (Successful Learners) Increase the number and quality of preschool opportunities

- *Continue supports for centers seeking National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation-* In partnership with our School Readiness council, Naugatuck YMCA is actively seeking accreditation for their preschool. The YMCA will be receiving 15 slots of School Readiness funding through the Federal School Readiness grant that will be implemented in July 2015.
- *Provide coaching and other supports to centers on state quality standards-* Through our School Readiness quality Enhancement funding; Naugatuck has been supporting all private and public preschool teachers in our district with professional development, and coaching opportunities. These workshops and coaching will be continued throughout the 2014-2015 school year.
- *Continue to provide support to preschools implementing Preschool Portfolios as part of the kindergarten transition-* In cohort one 2013-2014 school year; preschool portfolios were administered 3 times a year to Naugatuck DayCare, School Readiness, Head Start and Sugar Plum Daycare students that were going into kindergarten in September 2014. With great feedback of our public school partners; teachers and administrators we have expanded to a second cohort that includes the original schools in cohort one plus Tender Years Preschool and the Naugatuck YMCA preschool.
- *Develop/execute plan to advocate for more quality/affordable slots –* Naugatuck is fortunate to be part of the Federal School Readiness Expansion. Naugatuck has secured 43 additional high quality preschool slots in; Naugatuck Daycare 14 slots, Salem Community Child Care Center 14 slots and Naugatuck YMCA preschool 15 slots for the 2015-2016 school years beginning in September 2015.
- *Assess physical capacity of town for additional preschool slots-* In September 2014 the council was approached by the Naugatuck Superintendent Sharon Locke to assess the capacity for preschool expansion for the Federal School Readiness Grant in private preschools. The following had expansion potential and agreed to bring forth a quality preschool program that meets the qualifications set forth in the grant. Naugatuck Day Care Inc., Naugatuck YMCA Preschool and Salem Community Child Care Center.

Strategy3: Improve alignment of preschool and K-3 curriculum

- *Support Age 3 to Grade 3 district plan and align strategies-* The Age 3 to Grade 3 district plan is aligned with our Blueprint for Young Children. The strategies and actions that we are working on throughout this plan are intertwined with our district plan.
- *Develop immersion curriculum for incoming kindergartners who do not attend preschool-* In February 2015 Naugatuck hired Caroline Messenger as the director of curriculum. Caroline will be working with our education committee to establish a strategy and data collection system that will identify the children that do not have the experience needed to be successful in kindergarten by the February intake screenings of kindergartners that are slated to start in the fall 2015. A committee will be formed to create immersion curriculum and the possibility of a kindergarten readiness camp in the summer of 2015.

b.) Naugatuck, being a 3 to 3 community, incorporated our Age 3 to Grade 3 action plan into our Blueprint for Young Children. As a 3 to 3 pilot community, we found it best to incorporate these strategies and actions into our successful learner's domain for ease of continuation.

2.) We are very fortunate to have a great group of collaborators at our table for all of our early childhood initiatives in Naugatuck. We have been steadfast in recruiting and partnering with our community agencies and working towards our goals together as one early childhood initiative.

3.) Naugatuck is currently using the Results Scorecard. Through the process of hiring a communication consultant, we have allocated monies to clean up and update our scorecard. The cleanup is in progress and we will be using the scorecard for presentations and data retrieval as soon as it is back in operation.

4.) The progress made towards addressing the issues that our communities identified in the Community Self-Assessment are as follows:

Broad and Inclusive Collaborative

- Our collaborative has examined the need for restructuring of our council; executive committee has been defined and are responsible for voting and decision making
- Collaborative group has been working on expanding our representatives. The children's librarian Matt Yanerella will attend all collaborative meetings and be available for executive when needed. We still need representation from the faith based and senior citizen community.
- Timing of meetings has been discussed. Executive committee is being held monthly during working hours. All representatives have been given release time from their employers to execute these meetings.

Engaged Collaborative group

- The council has worked with co-chairs to redefine roles and responsibilities; bylaws were revised in November 2014
- Our collaborative meeting has been moved to a central public location. Executive meetings are held at Town Hall, Full Collaborative meetings are held at Youth Services.

Strategic Use of Data

- Council is using the Results Scorecard for collection and reporting. Our communication consultant is currently in the process of completing the Results Scorecard for our use to measure our results.

Parent leadership & engagement

- Parent Leadership and Child Leadership (PLTI / CLTI) have been established in Naugatuck. Our first class for our district started in January 2015 with 14 parent leaders and 13 child leaders. Graduation is slated for June 2015

Support of Mayor/ Chief Elected Official

- Part of our local match comes from the Board of Education side of our town budget. We have applied to a local funder Connecticut Community Foundation to accept our application as a back bone agency for early childhood. Application pending.

Support of Superintendent

- Naugatuck's new superintendent of schools, Sharon Locke started in July 2014. We have had tremendous support and collaboration with the school system. Ms. Locke is a staunch

supporter of early childhood initiatives and the mission of our council. With Ms. Locke's support and approval, Naugatuck has become a sub grantee of the Federal School Readiness grant with 43 additional School Readiness slots in 2015.

Strong Collaborative Leadership (chairs)

- Our chairs have worked with the OEC for the structuring and aligning of our School Readiness council. SR Liaison Nate Munro was hired in July 2014.

Engaged Collaborative Agent

- Our collaborative sponsor, United Way of Naugatuck and Beacon Falls has tagged a member of their council, Jackie Flynn, to be a representative to the council when the director is unable to attend.

Community Champion/ Spokesperson

- Through the PLTI class of 2015, we are working on establishing a community of early childhood champions. Working with our communication consultants, we are establishing power points and talking points to deliver to the public and funders. The parents leaders will take charge of this venture.

Strong and skilled facilitator (coordinator)

- The coordinator working as the PLTI site coordinator is engaging parents to become advocates for the children of Naugatuck.

Coordinator time is at least 20 hours

- Coordinator is working at least 35 hours a week

Meaningful Local Match

- Local match from the Naugatuck Board of Education \$20,000.00; United Way of Naugatuck and Beacon Falls \$5,000.00; application pending for a backbone grant from CCF \$5,000.00